

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03483 121212Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

SCI-06 SCEM-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-10 DRC-01 /106 W

----- 098644

R 121140Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4304

S E C R E T CAIRO 3483

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG EG

SUBJECT: DELAY IN SIGNING MOBIL OFFSHORE EXPLORATION
CONCESSION

IN COURSE OF COURTESY CALL BY FRICKER, RESIDENT MOBIL
MANAGER, AND VISITING MOBIL REPRESENTATIVES MARQUANDT
AND SAWTELLE FROM NEW YORK, THEY INDICATED EGYPTIANS
HAVE TOLD THEM PROPOSED SIGNING OF MOBIL OFFSHORE
EXPLORATION CONCESSION COVERING AREA BETWEEN PORT
SAID AND ALEXANDRIA HAS TO BE POSTPONED FOR TIME BEING.
ALTHOUGH SUCH CONCESSION AUTHORIZED IN PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE ISSUED TWO DAYS BEFORE RECENT OUTBREAK OF HOS-
TILITIES AND NEGOTIATIONS ON DETAILS OF AGREEMENT HAVE
SINCE BEEN UNDER WAY AND ARE VIRTUALLY COMPLETED,
CHAIRMAN EL LETHY OF THE EGYPTIAN GENERAL PETROLEUM
CORPORATION HAS TOLD MOBIL THAT CONCESSION AREA IS
IN MILITARY ZONE AND THAT EGYPTIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES
WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME ALLOW WORK TO BEGIN EVEN IF
CONCESSION AGREEMENT SIGNED. EL LETHY DISAPPOINTED
AND APPARENTLY INDICATED HE HOPES SIGNING MAY TAKE
PLACE IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. FRICKER BELIEVES, HOWEVER,
IT MAY BE AT LEAST SIX WEEKS, DEPENDING ON HOW AREA
SITUATION DEVELOPS. HIS EGYPTIAN CONTACTS HAVE ALSO
SUGGESTED THAT EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ARE RELUCTANT TO
SIGN OIL CONCESSION AGREEMENTS WITH AMERICAN FIRMS,

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EVEN FOR EXPLORATION, AT VERY TIME WHEN ARAB OIL EM-

BARGO HAS BEEN IMPOSED. FRICKER UNDERSTANDS THAT EXXON
REPRESENTATIVES HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR POSTPONEMENT
NOTIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH OFFSHORE CONCESSION
AREA BETWEEN ALEXANDRIA AND LIBYAN BORDER FOR WHICH
THEY HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005